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FM AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2122
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6128
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0041
RUEHDT/AMEMBASSY DILI 0006
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0039
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA 0003
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2218
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3325
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3001
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0398
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0600
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ULAANBAATAR 000204

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STATE FOR EAP/CM, IO/RHS AND DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/02/2018

TAGS: PHUM PREL UNHCR EAID MG

SUBJECT: MONGOLIA UNLIKELY TO SEEK SEAT ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

REF: STATE 46477

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Brian L. Goldbeck for Reason 1.4 (d).

(C) Per reftel, Post approached the Government of Mongolia on the upcoming election at the UNGA for seats on the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). Post's Econ/Pol Chief informed Mr. Batjargal, of MFA's Multilateral Cooperation Department, of the USG's view of the HRC's performance thus far, and underlined the need for countries with strong human rights records to run for HRC seats. Asked whether Mongolia would consider running in the May 21 HRC election, Batjargal said he did not think so, "not at this stage." Batjargal explained that while Mongolia is "an emerging, new democracy," it still has its share of human rights issues. Another factor he cited is the fierce competition between countries vying for the four Asia Group seats on the HRC. He said that given "the hostilities between candidates," Mongolia would be better off working "to improve our human rights record," rather than seeking an HRC seat. Batjargal added that Mongolia intends to run for an HRC seat in some future year. He added, without elaborating, that in the May 21 election, Mongolia will throw its support behind countries that have a good democratic record.

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